

Application serial No. 10/620,428
Examiner: LEE, SEUNG H
Art Unit: 2876

Applicant: International Currency Technologies Corp.

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

It is noted with a great appreciation that the Examiner deems claims 4 and 7 allowable if rewritten into independent form, and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant added new proposed independent claims 9 and 16 incorporating all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4, and claims 1 and 7, respectively. Therefore, newly added claims 9-20 are in proper conditions for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8 are in proper condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103

1. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al. (US-2003/0137095, hereinafter Ito) in view of Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA).

Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the above rejections as set forth below.

The present invention is directed to a banknote receiver. The proposed independent claim 1, among other things, recites at least *[a burglarproof spring member disposed adjacent to said banknote inlet and adapted to stop backward movement of banknote being delivered into said banknote inlet, said burglarproof spring member having a plurality of curved pawls projecting into said angled passage to limit movement of banknote in said angled passage in one direction toward said banknote inlet]*. The advantage of the above feature is that at least the accepted banknote can be prevented from being removed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed independent claim 1 is allowable over Ito and AAPA for at least the reason that Ito and AAPA fail to teach, suggest or hint every features of the claimed invention. More specifically, Ito and AAPA fail to teach, suggest or hint a banknote receiver comprising *[a burglarproof spring member disposed adjacent to said banknote inlet and adapted to stop backward movement of banknote being delivered into said banknote inlet, said burglarproof spring member having a plurality of curved pawls projecting into said angled passage to limit movement of banknote in said angled passage in one direction toward said banknote inlet]* as

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The Office Action stated that Ito substantially discloses a structure of a banknote receiver that is similar to the claimed invention except for the lever (9) has a plurality of curved pawls and made of elastic material. However, the Office Action relied upon AAPA, which disclosed a toothed safety plate (F) having "L" shaped. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the well known toothed safety plate as taught by AAPA to the bill handling apparatus of Ito in order to provide an improved security by prohibiting backward movement of the bill inserted therein.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the interpretation of the toothed safety plate (F) as equivalent to the plurality of curved pawls of the present invention as claimed in the proposed Independent claim 1. It is well known that the structure of pawl is different from that of the toothed plate, in that, the structure of pawl is similar to a structure used for abutting against a tooth of a gear to stop the reverse movement of the gear. The structure of pawl is shown in FIG. 1 of the specification. In other words, unlike pawls, the toothed safety plate have teeth each has a sharp terminal ends structure. According to the present inventor, the toothed safety plate which are generally known to have sharp terminal ends structure would undesirably damage the accepted banknote if a user attempts to pull out the accepted banknote by illegal means, such as using a string, and the like. In order to overcome this disadvantage, the present inventor proposes using a burglarproof spring member with a plurality of curved pawls which is not only effective in preventing the accepted banknote from being pulled out but also prevents the banknote from being damaged when someone attempts to pull out the accepted banknote by illegal means.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Ito and AAPA, in a manner suggested by the Office Action, substantially fail to teach, suggest or hint a banknote receiver comprising at least *[a burglarproof spring member disposed adjacent to said banknote inlet and adapted to stop backward movement of banknote being delivered into said banknote inlet, said burglarproof spring member having a plurality of curved pawls projecting into said angled passage to limit movement of banknote in said angled passage in one direction toward said banknote inlet]* as required by proposed independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ito and AAPA cannot possibly meet the proposed independent claim in this regard. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3, 5, and 8, which directly depend from the proposed independent claim 1 are also patentable over Ito and AAPA, at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 5 and 8 patently define over Ito and AAPA, and therefore claims 1-3, 5 and 8 should be allowed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

2. The Office Action rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito as modified by AAPA above, and further view of Kobayashi (JP-4,131,269, hereinafter Kobayashi).

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that even though the Office Action relied upon Kobayashi to disclose an elastic material, still Kobayashi cannot cure the specific deficiencies of Ito and AAPA for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, claim 6 also patently define over Ito, AAPA and Kobayashi for at least the

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same reasons discussed above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-20 of the present application are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

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Date: 06/15/2005

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